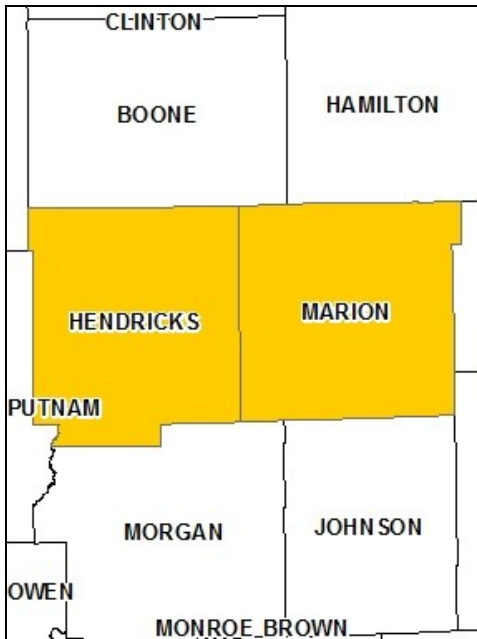




2015 Clean Water Indiana Grant Program

Indiana State Department of Agriculture
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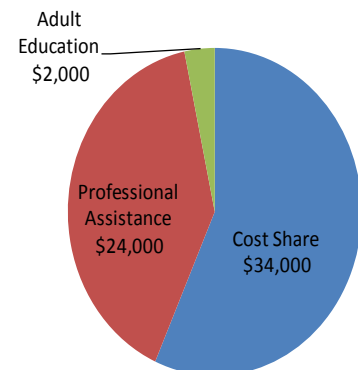


LEAD DISTRICT: MARION
COLLABORATING DISTRICTS:
HENDRICKS
PROJECT NAME: THE URBAN
CONSERVATION PROGRAM
PROJECT DATES: 5/1/2015-4/30/2017
PROJECT AMOUNT: \$60,000

Purpose: Prove land users tool to better care for soil and water.

The Urban Conservation Program will provide suburban and urban land users the tools needed to better care for their soils and water. The burgeoning interest in gardening--food and landscape--will help the Districts reach an audience currently unaware of their services. Partnerships with urban gardening/farming groups and the Master Gardener Program will provide a new audience of residents and volunteers for educational outreach. Staff will offer technical assistance to evaluate management issues and provide cost-share opportunities to residents. The program's main goals are to change current cultural practices such as heavy chemical applications, extreme tilling, and wasteful water use and to combat the general lack of soil and water stewardship typical among urban/suburban land users. Working closely with NRCS will ensure technical integrity of information, and cost-share funding will incentivize conservation practices common to the urban landscape: soil testing, vermiculture, and native plantings.

PARTNERS FOR THE PROJECT INCLUDE:
FALL CREEK GARDENS, URBAN PATCH,
PEACEFUL GROUNDS, AND MASTER
GARDENERS



Demonstration sites may include Fall Creek Gardens, Urban Patch and outdoor classrooms at local schools.

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. The financial assistance supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs.

The CWI fund is administered by the Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board. The CWI Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects through Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. CWI also contributes critical state matching funds for Indiana's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, an initiative which utilizes federal funds to encourage landowners to conserve environmentally sensitive land.

Furthermore, the CWI Program has supported the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative which focuses on management systems approach to crop production which results in improved soil and water quality as well as profitability on Indiana cropland.

During state fiscal year 2015, the State Soil Conservation Board awarded 14 Clean Water Indiana grants totaling \$1,020,900. Grant funds can be used for Cost Share Incentives, Technical Assistance, and Adult Education (maximum of \$1,000 per year).